

# FOREST CONTROL

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## by CONTINUOUS INVENTORY

"Today, I have grown taller from walking  
with the trees."

...Karle Wilson

Milwaukee, Wis. July, 1964 No. 124

Come to the sunset tree!  
The day is past and gone;  
The woodman's axe lies free,  
And the reaper's work is done.

Tyrolese Evening Song  
Stanza 1

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May 15, 1964

OBJECTIVESCOOPERATIVE FOREST INVENTORY AND LARGE OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT BRANCH

The objectives of this cooperative work have remained unchanged by the Forest Service for 30 years, but there have been pronounced and intricate changes in emphasis.

Today, and for the past 5 years, the previous trickle of interest in the speed and precision of data processing has increased to a minor deluge of interest and concern. The effect of this on our work has been terrific. There is little doubt of the need for a deeper and more intensive understanding of data processing to improve our cooperative effort in this field throughout the Region.

During the past two years, changes in our program of work have been made necessary because of the general use of electronic data processing equipment. We have had to learn many new tricks and trades. Much additional time is needed to prepare plans preliminary to the use of EDP and the programming necessary with it. Since the load is increasing in this direction, we must stress the importance of becoming adept with these new machines. This service is much in demand in Region 9.

CFI remeasurements are falling due on an increasing scale. With the advent of the 1401 computer, new formulas and procedures for working up estimates have had to be devised. It is common practice now to recompute both current and subsequent CFI measurements. This, together with the growth calculations, has increased the burden and complication of data processing tremendously. Nevertheless, the changes are advances of the first order. It is important that we continue to improve our knowledge of block diagramming and systems planning so that we may maintain our position of trust in this field of forest growth and remeasurements.

Our objective this past year has been to encourage tripartite cooperation between timber landowners, forest consultants and our Branch. Thus far we have had only a smidgen of success in this endeavor. However, we believe that with our voluntary assistance and our experience to aid them, forest consultants should find it possible to present proposals for CFI and data processing which will be attractive to many companies.

Finally, it should be our continuing objective to encourage a more intensive analysis and use of inventory data for the management of the forest. Weaknesses in this effort persist. This has in fact been a common problem as old as forestry in the United States, and continues to this day to be a drawback in the continuous forest inventory of the Europeans.

CAL STOTT  
Forester

Eidg. Technische Hochschule  
Ecole Polytechnique Federale  
Zurich

Professur für Forsteinrichtung

Zurich, Febr. 1, 1964

Universitätsstr. 2

Mr. Cal Stott  
Forester  
Region 9  
U. S. Forest Service

Dear Mr. Stott:

I still have to thank you for your kind letter of Dec. 27, 1963, and would apologize for not having answered it before.

Your CFI news letters promptly arrive and my collaborators are following your work with interest. I think what you are doing is pioneer's work. I hope your activity will not have the same course as it is the case in Switzerland where, for 50 years back, 100% cruising is made, but the results obtained are scarcely interpreted. I think the problem of interpretation has been given too little attention up to now.

I would be glad to discuss these questions with you. Is there no journey to Switzerland in sight for you?

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

/s/ A. Kurth

Prof. Dr. A. Kurth

Encl. Experimental program  
IUFRO, Vienna, 1961

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

North Central Region  
710 N. Sixth Street, Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin

In Reply Refer to:

Forestry Assistance Program

3220

March 18, 1964

Professor Dr. A. Kurth  
Department Forest Management  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology  
Zurich, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Kurth:

It was very nice to have your letter of February 1, and to know that you are so sympathetic and understanding of our purposes and problems. CFI is indeed a pioneering job and there are many frustrations.

You mention the inadequate analysis of 50 years of CFI data in Switzerland. This is a great loss and in a sense we are plagued by the same problem, but there is still another way to look at CFI when data processing is used.

Machine processed inventories, in an extremely short period of time, have instilled a more thorough working knowledge of forest structure and relationships in the minds of men than has ever been possible before with hand computing. The principal reason for this is pretty obvious.

Data processing and CFI projects begin with group planning. The planners look clear ahead to the very shape, form and content of the final tabulations to set up the intervening machine steps. They mold the entire inventory to predecided tabular formats. Then these same men run the jobs through the machines, finally submitting the results to analysis (though seldom enough).

Foresters use the material for business, administrative and ecological purposes. They design special CFI studies and work up the results. The men who handle these tasks so swiftly, gain a knowledge of the forest which it took us 10 years to acquire before 1940.

And so, this fine summer weekend in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, I am encouraged to think that the gains of CFI far outweigh the few faults found by the critics. There are far less dead data in the files today than ever before in the history of forestry in the United States, because of continuing inventory controls.

Before closing I might mention that we have had good success with the use of CFI information in studies by forest school students. This is especially true of our local Stone's woods plot records. As time

goes on more and more theses will be prepared from this material, and more and more doctorates acquired. There are very few histories of forest tracts like these in the country today. Sometime I think I should store our 20 years of annual records of several thousand trees on tape and send you a reel.

All in all, CFI knowledge has penetrated pretty deeply into our profession on many fronts in the United States. Perhaps some day I will come to Switzerland and tell you all about it. After all, it is high time I inspected the town of Chateau-D'Oex in your country, for it was from there that a segment of my ancestry lived before setting out for the New World in 1726, as stated in Pennsylvania history books.

It was fine to hear from you, and you may be sure that we have placed the name of Mr. R. Badan on our mailing list, and sent him back issues of the CFI Newsletter.

I thank you especially for the treatise on "The Determination of Volume Increment by Increment Borings" as developed from your studies, and those of Dr. Paul Schmid. I think you should collaborate sometime on a similar study involving diameter tape errors, distributing the information also through the coordinating agency of the IUFRO.

Sincerely yours,

CAL STOTT  
Forester